

## CLAIMS

1. A method for sending a short message from a first wireline phone to a second wireline phone comprising:

5        sending an SMS (Short Message Service) message from the first wireline phone to a switch; and

         sending the SMS message from the switch to the second wireline phone.

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2. A method for sending a short message from a first wireline phone to a second wireline phone in accordance with claim 1, the method further comprising the step of denying the SMS message at the second wireline phone.

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3. A method for sending a short message from a first wireline phone to a second wireline phone in accordance with claim 1, the method further comprising the step of displaying the SMS message on a caller ID display

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4. A method for sending a short message from a first wireline phone to a second wireline phone in accordance with claim 2, the method further comprising the step of converting the SMS message to a voice message.

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5. A method for sending a short message from a first wireline phone to a second wireline phone in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of sending an SMS message from the first wireline phone to a switch comprises

30        sending a preformatted message from the first wireline phone to the switch.

6. A method for sending a short message from a first wireline phone to a second wireline phone in accordance with claim 1, the method further comprising the step of interworking with a wireless SMS.

7. A method for sending a short message from a wireline phone to an information provider comprising:

    sending an SMS (Short Message Service) message from the wireline phone to a switch;

5       sending the SMS message from the switch to the information provider; and

    sending near real-time filtered information from the information provider to the wireless phone.

8. A method for sending a message from a first wireline phone to a wireline SMS group, the wireline SMS group comprising a plurality of wireline phones, the method comprising:

- 5        sending a group SMS message for the wireline SMS group from the first wireline phone to a switch; and  
         sending the group SMS message from the switch to each of the plurality of wireline phones that are members of the wireline SMS group.

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9. A method for sending a message from a first wireline phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim 8, wherein the step of sending a group SMS message for the  
15        wireline SMS group from the first wireline phone to a switch comprises sending a group SMS message comprising a list sent in the signaling message.

10. A method for sending a message from a first wireline  
20        phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim 8, wherein the wireline SMS group comprises a list provisioned on the switch.

11. A method for sending a message from a first wireline  
25        phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim 10, wherein the wireline SMS group is associated with a directory number.

12. A method for sending a message from a first wireline phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim 8, wherein the step of sending the group SMS message from the switch to each of the plurality of wireline phones  
5 comprises:

    sending the group SMS message from the switch to a first wireline phone; and

    sending the group SMS message from the switch to a second wireline phone via a second switch.

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13. A method for sending a message from a first wireline phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim 8, the method further comprising the step of providing voice mail notification at at least one of the plurality of  
15 wireline phones that are members of the wireline SMS group.

14. A method for sending a message from a first wireline phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim 8,  
20 the method further comprising the step of providing e-mail interworking at at least one of the plurality of wireline phones that are members of the wireline SMS group.

25 15. A method for sending a message from a first wireline phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim 8, the method further comprising the step of, at the second switch, determining which phones should receive the group SMS message.

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16. A method for sending a message from a first wireline phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim  
15, the method further comprising the step of forwarding the group SMS message from the second switch to the  
35 second wireline phone.

17. A method for sending a message from a first wireline  
phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim 8,  
wherein the step of sending the group SMS message from  
5 the switch to a first wireline phone comprises sending  
the group SMS message via a plurality of segmented  
messages.

18. A method for sending a message from a first wireline phone to a wireline SMS group, the wireline SMS group comprising a plurality of wireline phones, the method comprising:

5        sending a group SMS message for the wireline SMS group from the first wireline phone to a gatekeeper database;

         determining at the gatekeeper database the directory number of each of the phones in the wireline SMS group;

10      and

         sending the group SMS message from the gatekeeper database to the phones in the wireline SMS group.

15      19. A method for sending a message from a first wireline phone to a wireline SMS group in accordance with claim 18, wherein the step of determining at the gatekeeper database the directory number of each of the phones in the wireline SMS group comprises determining the location  
20      utilizing directory number to switch mapping.